

# *News Clippings*

*3/19/08*

## **DHS**

### **Muncie**

Madison County native named new IDHS director

[Read the Article](#)

## **FLOODING**

### **Anderson**

7:15 p.m.: Rainfall may flood White River

[Read the Article](#)

### **Evansville**

Flood warning extended to noon

[Read the Article](#)

### **Fort Wayne**

Flood warning issued for rivers

[Read the Article](#)

### **Indianapolis**

Extensive flooding shuts S. Ind. schools

[Read the Article](#)

Flood Warning Issued for Central Indiana

[Read the Article](#)

Red Cross on Standby for Flood Assistance

[Read the Article](#)

### **Jeffersonville**

Two-day storm prompts flood fears in Clark, Floyd counties

[Read the Article](#)

### **Lafayette**

Already-soaked ground gets another drenching

[Read the Article](#)

### **Richmond**

Rain won't go away today

[Read the Article](#)

Flood warning issued for Wayne, Preble counties

[Read the Article](#)



## Madison County native named new IDHS director

THE STAR PRESS

ANDERSON — Gov. Mitch Daniels has named Joseph E. Wainscott Jr., a training and law enforcement veteran, as the new executive director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

Wainscott began his duties Monday.

Wainscott, who grew up in Madison County, has been the IDHS director of training since October 2005 and has been responsible for managing and coordinating training and exercise programs and overseeing the Indiana Firefighter Training System, among other duties. He established the 10 multi-county fire training districts and helped fund more accessible training facilities for firefighters to build their skills.

As IDHS's executive director, Wainscott will be responsible for the state's emergency management and homeland security efforts, which include planning and assessment, preparedness and training, emergency response and recovery, fire and building safety and the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center.

**Originally published March 19, 2008**

[\*Return to DHS\*](#)

## 7:15 p.m.: Rainfall may flood White River

By Brandi Watters

A flood warning spanning the next two days has been issued for the White River in Anderson. Rainfall totals of two to four inches are expected throughout central Indiana, causing area rivers and streams to push past their banks.

As of noon Tuesday, the White River was at 5.6 feet. Flood stage is 10 feet. According to the National Weather Service in Indianapolis, the river will “rise above flood stage by late Wednesday night and continue to rise to near 10.8 feet by Thursday evening.”

While the flood warning extends through Friday night, weather officials expect the waters to recede midday Friday. “The river will fall below flood stage by Friday afternoon,” according to the weather service.

The weather service warns that a rise above the expected 10.8 feet could cause flooding on Anderson’s north side. “With water levels near 11 feet, floodwaters inundate Edgewater Park. Water approaches Grand Avenue east of Broadway Street Bridge.”

At 11 feet, the water could pose a threat to walking trails at Edgewater Park, but Frank Dick of the Anderson Emergency Management Agency says the river is not a real threat to residents until it reaches 13 feet. “Riverside Drive is an area that has problems. When it reaches 13 feet, there’s a possibility that people on Riverside Drive may need to sandbag or look at evacuating.”

If the river does flood, Dick expects flooding will also occur at Killbuck Creek. “We’ve got a gauge on Killbuck. When it gets to flood stage, Killbuck will overflow into Shadyside Lake.”

Dick says the city is prepared for the heavy rainfall and possibility of flooding. “They’re predicting up to four inches for our area. Depending on how fast that comes, it could be an issue. We have contingency plans. We have sandbags in supply in case of flooding.”

For now, Dick says, people need to watch the river and pay attention to rainfall in area communities. “A lot of it depends on what happens in the Muncie area because of the water shed. It eventually comes down through here. If we get a slow-moving storm, it dumps a lot of water and then moves east. It compounds the problem for us.”

Need sandbags? Call City of Anderson Emergency Management at (765) 648-6301.

[Return to Flooding](#)



## Flood warning extended to noon

Staff report

Originally published 08:41 a.m., March 19, 2008

Updated 08:41 a.m., March 19, 2008

A flood warning for the entire Tri-State region has been extended until noon today.

According to a statement issued by the National Weather Service this morning, between 5 and 10 inches of rain has fallen in the last 24 hours and more is on the way.

The precipitation today will be lighter and more intermittent, the release said, but it still will contribute to additional flooding and worsen areas already hit by high water.

Rainfall today is expected to remain below an inch, the release said.

Visit [courierpress.com/weather](http://courierpress.com/weather) for more on the forecast.

[\*Return to Flooding\*](#)

*Last updated: March 19, 2008 10:30 a.m.*

## **Flood warning issued for rivers**

### **The Journal Gazette**

The National Weather Service in northern Indiana has issued a flood warning for the following rivers in the region:

- St. Marys River near Decatur, affecting Adams and Allen counties in Indiana and Van Wert County in Ohio.

Flood stage is 17 feet, and the river expected to rise above flood stage Thursday afternoon. The river is forecast to crest about 2 p.m. Friday and fall below flood stage late Saturday.

- Wabash River near Bluffton, affecting Huntington and Wells counties

Minor flooding is forecast. The river is forecast to rise above flood stage Thursday morning, at 10 feet, and crest near 11.9 feet about 2 p.m. Saturday.

[\*Return to Flooding\*](#)



## **Extensive flooding swamps Southern Indiana**

Associated Press

Posted: March 19, 2008

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Heavy rain that drenched southern Indiana has caused widespread flooding today, prompting residents in one community to leave their homes and schools to close.

A total of 6.2 inches fell at Evansville Regional Airport over a 24-hour period that ended this morning, according to the National Weather Service. Southwest Indiana absorbed between 4 and 7 inches of rain, with the heaviest totals recorded between Evansville and Mount Vernon.

"We've got water rising everywhere," said Jeff Korb, president of the Vanderburgh County Commissioners, late Tuesday evening. "We've got more than 70 roads under water."

Gov. Mitch Daniels planned a helicopter trip Thursday to survey flooding in Orange County, which was under a state of emergency after the weather service said the county received between 5 and 7 inches of rain in a 36-hour period.

"West Baden is under water, the whole downtown street is under water," said sheriff's dispatcher Tina Peyton.

About 20 people were evacuated Wednesday from the historic West Baden Springs Hotel, she said, and sections of Indiana 37 and Ind. 150 were closed due to flooding.

The rain tapered off this afternoon, but major flooding was expected during the next few days for many southern Indiana rivers.

"It is going to take some time to dry out with this type of rain put down on saturated ground," said Beverly Poole, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Paducah, Ky. "It's going to take a few days for the rivers and the creeks to recover."

Rising water forced some residents to leave their homes in Milltown on the Harrison-Crawford county border west of Louisville, Ky. Flooding also closed dozens of roads in nearby Floyd and Clark counties.

"We're holding our own in New Albany," Floyd County Emergency Management Director Terry Herthel said.

A flood warning also was in effect for the White River in central Indiana, said Al Shipe, a hydrologist with the National Weather Service in Indianapolis. But he noted that most of

the heavy rain fell south of Interstate 70, which traverses the middle of the state.

Vanderburgh County officials declared a local disaster emergency for the county and the city of Evansville due to high water. Sheriff Eric Williams urged motorists not to drive around barriers and warned that deputies would cite motorists who ignored signs.

Sheriff's Lt. Sam Preston said volunteer fire departments had to rescue several drivers who tried to make it through floodwaters and became stuck.

More than a dozen school districts were closed today.

Crews overnight rescued a man who was clinging to a tree in the Ohio River after his truck was swept away at a boat ramp. Knight Township Fire Chief Chris Wathen said the man was conscious when he was pulled from the water but showing signs of hypothermia and could not speak clearly.

"It's hard for anybody to say how long he could have survived there," Wathen said. "But I do think it was fair to say he was within minutes of losing his life."

The Ohio River was expected to flood Indiana 111, so the Caesars casino in Harrison County closed Wednesday afternoon, communications director Judy Hess said. A Credence Clearwater Revival concert scheduled for Friday has been canceled.

About 400 hotel guests would have to leave, along with the few remaining guests at the casino, she said.

Sunny weather was in the forecast for central Indiana on Thursday, with a chance of rain returning Thursday and Friday.

In Indianapolis, a few commuters saw their cars stall on water covered roads. Police called upon road crews to place "high water" signs in trouble spots.

Four to six inches of rain fell south of I-70, causing floods in the Shelbyville, Edinburgh, Columbus, Seymour, Medora, Bedford, Williams, Shoals, Petersburg, Hazleton and Mount Carmel areas.

[\*Return to Flooding\*](#)





### **Flood Warning Issued for Central Indiana**

By Rob Wasson and wibc.com

3/19/2008

The National Weather Service has issued a Flood Warning for portions of central Indiana.

This warning is in effect until 8pm and includes the following counties: Johnson, Marion, Hendricks, Morgan and Shelby.

Additional rains of 1 to 2 inches across the warned areas will cause flooding in low lying areas and near small streams. Do not drive across water covered roadways. Move to higher ground if flood waters threaten your area.

[\*Return to Flooding\*](#)



### **Red Cross on Standby for Flood Assistance**

By Devon Scott  
3/19/2008

The Red Cross of Central Indiana is putting their volunteers on standby as the water rises across the state.

Ann Gregson with the Red Cross says they started calling hundreds of volunteers Wednesday morning to find out their availability.

Gregson says calls for help have come from southern Indiana, including Seymour and Paoli. Red Cross shelters are being opened in those counties.

Red Cross volunteers were called out earlier this year for flooding along the Wabash and Tippecanoe rivers in northern Indiana.

Gregson says they have a surplus of volunteers so their resources aren't taxed.

[\*Return to Flooding\*](#)



Published: March 19, 2008 10:20 am

## Two-day storm prompts flood fears in Clark, Floyd counties

Local officials dealing with drainage problems

### STAFF REPORTS

newsroom@newsandtribune.com

People come to Caesars Indiana in Elizabeth to gamble around the clock, 365 days a year.

But the roulette wheels will stop at 2 today, when gamblers must leave the property because of rising floodwaters, according to a news release from the hotel and casino. It's the most striking sign that the rain over the past two days and subsequent flooding is getting serious.

Rainfall Tuesday, forecasted to continue today, has prompted anxiety over flooding for some local officials, as water runs off already-saturated ground.

The National Weather Service put counties around the Ohio River — including Clark and Floyd — under a flash-flood warning, as the two-day rainmaker moves across the region. Most schools corporations in both counties were on two-hour delays today because of high-water concerns, and West Clark Community Schools Corp. canceled classes.

The Ohio River is expected to rise to about 25.3 feet at the upper gauge of the McAlpine Dam, about 2 feet above flood stage, said Mike Crow, meteorologist at the weather service. The river should crest Thursday or Friday.

Minor flooding caused by creeks and streams coming out of their banks could be a problem as well, he said.

The Ohio River already was up in recent weeks, cresting just below flood stage after heavy snow melted during the last week. That snowmelt — along with previous heavy rains — are contributing to the problems brought on by this week's precipitation, Crow said.

"The water just has no place to go."

Municipal officials were already dealing with the much more sporadic problem of flash flooding caused by imbedded heavy downpours Tuesday afternoon.

"I got sewage that got up to the top of manholes," Bob Miller, Jeffersonville's city engineer, said Tuesday.

He was quick to point out that sewage had not found its way onto the surface.

The city is pumping water as much as it can and keeping an eye on stormwater drainage basins, which tend to get clogged with leaves and other debris during heavy rain, he said. The city dedicated about four workers to unclogging drainage basins Tuesday.

“It’s just been a nightmare all day long,” Miller said, noting that many have called his office about flooding problems.

“Generally all over Jeff we’ve had problems. There’s nobody that can handle this much (at once),” Miller said.

There are similar concerns in other municipalities.

“We’re crossing our fingers and hoping nothing major happens,” said Clarksville Councilman Greg Isgrigg, who’s overseeing ongoing stormwater runoff problems in the town. “With the snow we just had, we got a lot of saturation.”

There are numerous spots in the town that typically experience flooding problems. A hydrology study is currently in the works to address some of those issues, Isgrigg noted.

Numerous roads were closed in Floyd County and River Road in New Albany was set to be closed today, officials said Tuesday. As of Tuesday evening, the Floyd County Highway Department had closed a section of John Pectol road and had placed high water signs at Georgetown-Greenville Road. A section of Vincennes Road also was closed. Sections of U.S. 150 were shut down as well, the Indiana Department of Transportation announced this morning.

Also, officials were keeping an eye on Seven Mile Lane and Five Mile Lane, according to Floyd County Engineer Gordon Martin.

In Sellersburg, the flooding had been mostly confined to South Indiana Avenue and Penn Street on Tuesday, both adjacent to Camp Run Creek.

The creek at that point normally floods during heavy rains, Sellersburg Town Council President Brian Meyer said.

Lee Slaughter, Charlestown’s supervisor of city services, said there were a couple of places in the city that need attention.

“They bottleneck if we get 3 inches of rain in a certain amount of time,” he said.

With rain expected to last through today, Slaughter said the city’s plan is to make sure everything is flowing normally and to continue to check for trouble spots.

“The police department helps a lot. If they see something that needs attention while they’re out, they’ll call us,” Slaughter said.

Problems weren't confined to urban areas. Charlestown-Memphis Road at Whitting Hill Road in Clark County was closed after it became impassible, said Chuck Adams, spokesman with the county's Sheriff's Department. There also was water coming over the road at the 900 block of Zimmerman Road.

Rain is expected to continue through tonight. Dry and sunny conditions are in the forecast for Thursday and Friday.

*Staff writers David A. Mann, Melissa Moody, Chris Morris and Daniel Suddeath contributed to this report*

## DRIVING TIPS

Flooding can occur as streams and rivers flow over their banks, when dams or levees break, with run-off from deep snow cover or any time there is rainfall with significant duration and intensity.

- Flash floods can come rapidly and unexpectedly. They can occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall.
- You may not have warning that a flash flood is approaching.
- Do not drive unless necessary.
- Do not drive through flooded areas. If you see a flooded-out roadway ahead, turn around and find another route to get to your destination.
- If there is no other route, proceed to higher ground and wait for the waters to subside.
- Even if the water appears shallow enough to cross, do not attempt to cross a flooded road. Water can conceal dips, or worse, floodwaters can damage roadways, washing away the entire road surface and a significant amount of ground.
- If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.
- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control or possible stalling.
- One foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including SUVs and trucks.

— *weather.com, FEMA.gov, NOAA.gov*

## DURING A FLOOD

**If a flood is likely in your area, you should:**

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.

**If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:**

- Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

**If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:**

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.

— *FEMA.gov*

## AFTER A FLOOD

**The following are guidelines for the period following a flood:**

- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Avoid moving water.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay away from downed power lines, and report them to the power company.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.

— *FEMA.gov*

[Return to Flooding](#)



March 18, 2008

### **Already-soaked ground gets another drenching**

New rain soaking already saturated ground throughout Greater Lafayette and surrounding areas is causing problems for some people.

But it's not as bad as it could have been.

Heavy rains that were forecast for the area on Tuesday stayed mainly to the south of Lafayette.

Tippecanoe County Emergency Management Director Mark Kirby found that out Tuesday morning while on a conference call with National Weather Service and Indiana Department of Homeland Security officials.

For more see the Wednesday edition of the Journal & Courier.

### **Local soldiers look back at five years of Iraq War**

Staff Sgt. Dustin Slinker is stationed at Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, after pulling two tours of duty in Iraq.

Slinker, 31, a 1995 Jefferson High School graduate, was injured during an attack last April 12 that also killed Cpl. Cody Putman, a former Lafayette resident.

He called Putman a "close friend" who had great potential in the Army.

"I am still saddened by his loss, and a day does not pass that I do not think about Cody," he said.

Slinker had surgery recently on a shoulder that was injured when a truck loaded with explosives struck his barracks in Iraq. He had just put on body armor and a ballistic helmet.

For more see the Wednesday edition of the Journal & Courier.

### **Companies share environmental grant money**

Four Indiana companies, including one in Fountain County and one in Clinton County, will share \$251,000 in grant money from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for various projects designed to protect the environment.

Harrison Steel Castings Company in Attica will get \$100,000 for a project to reduce the amount of resin in chemically-bonded sand they use in their operation. The decrease in resin will mean fewer volatile organic compounds will be released into the air.

Frito-Lay Inc. in Frankfort will get \$50,000 to help design and install a waste heat recovery system that will significantly reduce energy consumption.

For more see the Wednesday edition of the Journal & Courier.

### **Generation gap still cause problems for Boomers, their parents**

Baby Boomers need to take some time for a serious discussion with their parents, because the communication gap is widening between these two age groups. Get expert advice on how to open up the lines of communication in Wednesday's Relate section.

[\*Return to Flooding\*](#)





## Rain won't go away today

### National Weather Service issues flood watch for Union, Fayette and Franklin counties

BY RACHEL E. SHEELEY  
STAFF WRITER

The rain seemed endless and soaking for those outside Richmond's Fire Station No. 1 on Tuesday afternoon during the rally featuring former President Bill Clinton.

There were nearly as many colorful umbrellas as people outside the rally in support of the bid of Clinton's wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Although it may have seemed to be a drenching downpour, according to the Indiana American Water Company, less than an inch-- or .97 of rain -- fell between midnight and 8 p.m. Tuesday.

But don't put the umbrellas away. Rain and thunderstorms are expected to continue today with a 100 percent chance of rain forecast by the National Weather Service office in Wilmington, Ohio. In the evening, rain and snow showers may be mixed.

The region remains under a flood watch through this afternoon. The watch started at 2 a.m. Tuesday.

A flood warning is in effect for Union, Fayette and Franklin counties.

Area rivers, such as branches of the Whitewater, were high, muddy and overflowing their banks in some low-lying areas Tuesday.

Officials in Wayne County said that no flooding or high water had been reported on streets or roads as of Tuesday evening. In Union County, all roads with dry fords were closed for water, and in Preble County, Ohio, barricades were being erected for high-water spots in the Hueston Woods area.

Early on, forecasters were calling for as many as 5 inches of rain Tuesday and today. One to 2 inches remain in today's forecast.

Thursday is expected to offer a respite with partly sunny skies. More rain, possibly turning to snow, is predicted for Friday afternoon through Saturday morning. The sun is anticipated to peek out Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

**Reporter Rachel E. Sheeley: (765) 973-4458 or [rsheeley@pal-item.com](mailto:rsheeley@pal-item.com)**

[Return to Flooding](#)



## Flood warning issued for Wayne, Preble counties

PALLADIUM-ITEM

The National Weather Service in Wilmington, Ohio, has issued a flood warning for Wayne and Preble counties until 1:45 p.m. today.

At 9:30 a.m., radar and state of Ohio rain gauges indicated that from 2.5 to 3.5 inches of rain had fallen since Monday night.

Rain continues to fall across the warned area with another inch possible through today.

While the heaviest rainfall has ended, creeks and streams will continue to rise out of their banks, causing flooding of some roads and low areas.

Locations that may experience flooding include Cambridge City, Centerville and Eaton, Ohio.

**Stay with [www.pal-item.com](http://www.pal-item.com) for weather updates 24/7**

**Originally published March 19, 2008**

**[Return to Flooding](#)**